

OTHER NOTICES

Scott, George Ryley. *Practical Birth Control by Nature's Method.* London, 1937. Cassell. Pp. 101. Price 3s.

THIS is a very elementary and, except for details which do not effect the general argument, accurate account of what is known about the phases of fertility and sterility in the ovulation cycle, and the application of this knowledge to the practice of birth-control and the treatment of low fertility.

Among the omissions that the author might care to rectify in future editions are these: the clinical signs of ovulation, e.g. mid-menstrual pain (*mittelschmerz*) and "spotting"; the relation between fertile and sterile periods and the phases of sexual desire in the female (critically discussed in Carl G. Hartman's *Time of Ovulation in Women**); and the use of safe-period intercourse to supplement rather than to replace other contraceptive measures. For the general reader it would be a help, too, if technical terms were defined the first time they were mentioned. The omission in some cases to do so, however, does not seriously detract from the merits of this work, particularly as the reader for whom it is designed could, without reading a word of the text, obtain the information he needs from the tables and charts with which it is illustrated. It may be hoped that *Practical Birth Control by Nature's Method* will find a ready sale among Roman Catholics and others to whom mechanical and chemical contraceptives are forbidden or unacceptable.

A word about the title. It implies that Nature, aiming at birth-control, has thoughtfully evolved a

method for this purpose. Those of us who do not share this intimate knowledge of Nature's purposes would be grateful to be let into the secret.

E. M. HOLMES.

Ungern-Sternberg, Dr. R. von. *Bevoelkerungsverhaeltnisse in England und Wales (1800-1935).* Berlin, 1936. Verlagsbuchhandlung von Richard Schoetz. Pp. 80. Price Mk.3.

THIS is a short but comprehensive summary of English population history from 1800 onwards, and an exhaustive analysis of the decline of the birth-rate—as seen from a German standpoint. All aspects are thoroughly treated: health conditions, the emancipation of women, religion and the churches, contraception, urbanization, and economic difficulties. The desire to reach and maintain a high standard of life is considered to be the main cause of the decline. It is a pity that similar pamphlets are not available about other countries.

C. T.

Unwin, Philip Ibotson. *Unwiniana*, 1937. London, 1937. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. Pp. 80. Price 2s.

THIS is a sequel to *Notes on the Unwin Family*, which was reviewed in the EUGENICS REVIEW of April 1935. It was then suggested that the complete absorption in the male line precluded any real possibility of eugenic evaluation. In the case of the present volume this absorption is even more marked; in addition there are no tabular pedigrees nor any attempt otherwise to set out relationships.

W. T. J. GUN.

* EUGENICS REVIEW, Vol. XXVIII, No. 4, p. 258.